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FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLY TAX STRUCTURE

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Survey of Onoway.

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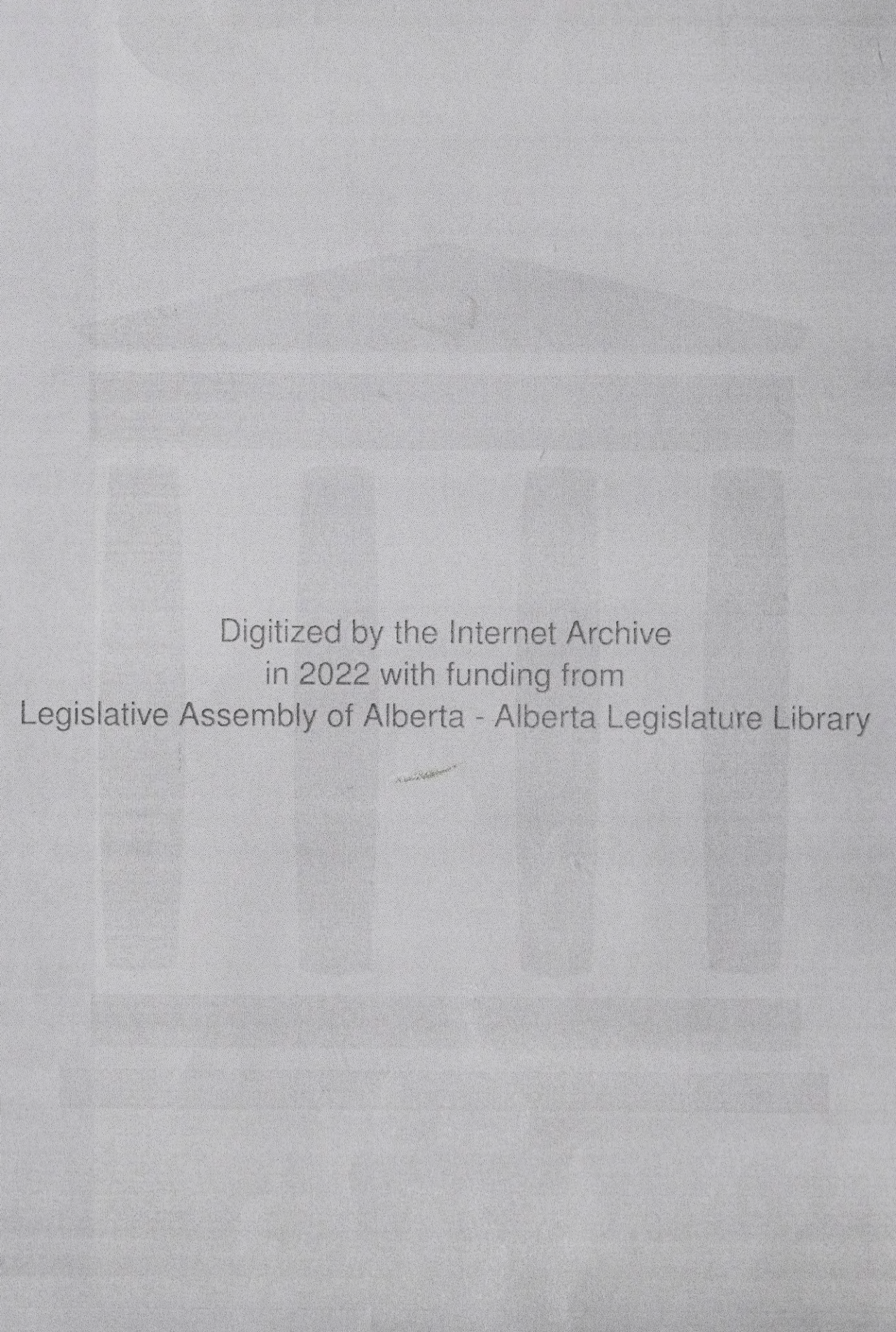


# SURVEY OF ONOWAY

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GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA





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# *Village of Onoway*

(Revised June, 1971)

## **1. LOCATION**

Section 26-54-2-W5, northwest of Edmonton, 35 road miles, one-half mile east off highway 43 (first place on Alaska Highway), with paved access road, and on a branch line of the C.N.R. to Windfall.

## **2. ALTITUDE**

2,200 feet

Latitude 53/55

Longitude 114/08

## **3. GEOLOGY**

The area in and around Onoway is described as Interglacial and Brown Till shading to Grey Till underlaid by sandstone formation and shale and coal seams. The whole area was once subjected to glacial action and a chain of lakes including Chip, Isle, Lac Ste. Anne and Devil's bear witness to the influence of the Cenozoic era.

## **4. SOIL**

The soil around Onoway can be described as good grey, wooded.

## **5. VEGETATION**

The area originally was tree-covered (mostly deciduous trees).



Early morning finds the main street of the town in a quiet mood.



## Land Use

Most of the land is arable. Some wheat is grown but coarse grains predominate. Mixed farming is preferred and is most suited. It includes such crops as alfalfa, clovers and brome with an emphasis on livestock raising.

## 6. HISTORY

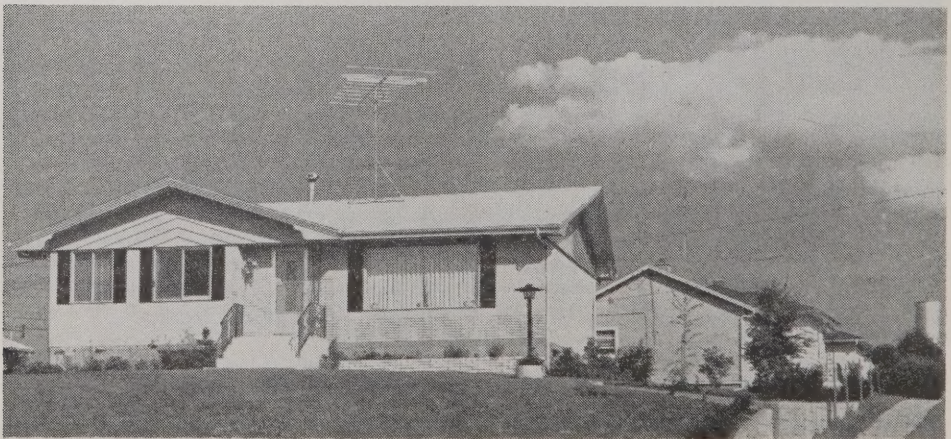
The present village is on the old trail by which Father Thibault travelled in 1842 on his journey from Fort Edmonton to Lac Ste. Anne which was then called Big Devil's Lake but renamed Lac Ste. Anne in 1844 when the shrine was built. The trail was the main road to Lac Ste Anne, used by traders, Indians, missionaries and settlers.

The earliest permanent settlers came in 1897, when the W. P. Beaupre family squatted beside the Lac Ste. Anne Trail where the Pentecostal Church is now located, just inside the west boundary of the village. Others soon followed in the families of Pierre Laroque, Cecil Armitstead, Jim Lavoie, Victor and Charlie Lenoir, Louis and Fred Newton, Charlie Wilcox, Andy Johnson, Louis Coutreille, Sam Greer, John Blacklock and Harry Ablett. If we have omitted any of the pioneers, our apologies.

By 1904, there were enough people to warrant a post office. W. P. Beaupre became the first postmaster and operated the post office until his death in 1936.

The new post office must have a name and stories differ as to the origin. One story is that the name Onoway was taken from the poem "Hiawatha" in which the Indian singer began the lines of the 11th canto with the exclamation, "Onaway" which in English means "awake". The original spelling was changed to Onoway probably by error. At any rate in 1904 Onoway it became.

Another version is that the local settlers wanted it to be "Beaupre" to honor the first settler. However, the postal people stated that the name had already been used so could not accept it. The word Beaupre by translation can be "good, rich or lush meadow" and translated to Cree it becomes Onoway. So the words Beaupre and Onoway are synonymous.



Modern homes in well designed residential areas serve townfolk.



However the booklet "Place Names of Alberta" gives the information: "Onoway village 54-2-5 (P.O. 1904) error for Onaway; after the character in Longfellow's poem, Hiawatha.

The school district was formed in 1904 and the first school house was built in 1905 with Jim Lavoie the builder. It was located two miles northwest from the present village on the Blacklock farm. The first chairman of the Board was W. P. Beaupre and the first secretary-treasurer was Wm. Turnbull. That school house served until Feb., 1921, when a two-room brick school was opened on the present site.

The first store in the community, was a little shop with candy, tobacco and groceries, opened in 1906 by Victor Lenoir near Devil's Lake. The same year, it was purchased by L. A. Guenette who operated a general store, livery stable, stopping place and sold machinery. This business operated until 1918.

The first store within the village was a building moved here from the old townsite by Frank Roberts. This store was later owned by Syd Yeoman, Wilfred Ledger, then Sid Mills. It was destroyed by fire but rebuilt and is presently the "Super A".

The Canadian Northern Railway was built through Onoway in 1910 on its way to the Pacific coast. Transcontinental service commenced in 1913. Traffic was heavy and "The Moonlight Special" took picnickers from Edmonton to the "Lake". About the same time, a railway was under construction through Onoway to the Peace River country. This is the one that now ends at Windfall.

The Canadian Northern line to Vancouver closed to heavy traffic in 1925. The last train to Vancouver passed through here May 1, 1936. The rails from Onoway to Entwistle were torn up in 1938.



The Canadian Legion is a popular centre for the town residents.



The oldest women's organization is the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church (W.A.) as it was formed April 19, 1908. Their first president, Mrs. Tom Taylor, was the wife of Hudson Bay Co. factor at Lac Ste. Anne. Other original members were Mrs. W. C. Turnbull, Mrs. Alsop, Mrs. C. Armitstead, Mrs. W. Parkinson, Mrs. Vipan, Mrs. J. Parkinson

The Women's Institute was organized on May 24, 1916. The president was Mrs. W. P. Beaupre and the secretary-treasurer Mrs. Lavoie.

In 1921, the Standard Bank located in Onoway with Mr. Watson the first manager. It was absorbed by the Bank of Commerce in 1928. There was no bank from 1938 to 1951 when the Bank of Commerce opened a branch with Allan Stewart as manager.

The Onoway bank has been cause of some excitement. In 1924, the safe was blown so violently that the safe door crashed through the wall and landed in the middle of the street. The robbers got an estimated \$4,000. In 1962, thieves succeeded in winching the safe through the east window, then dragged it away. However, they failed to get it open and were quickly apprehended.

Some additional firsts were:

1924 - Grain elevator by Gillespie Grain Co. Bought out by United Grain Growers in 1944.

1938 - Wheat Pool elevator built.

1926 - Creamery started by H. Thompson. Later taken over and now owned by Northern Alberta Dairy Pool.

1927 - Hotel built by Syd Bert on site of the present one.

1952 - Calgary Power began supplying electric power in Onoway.

1956 - N.W.U. gas lines passed through and the village got gas.

1959 - In June, Baroid of Canada began building their plant.

1962 - Running water and a sewage disposal system was installed for the village.

1967 - A new Community Centre was begun as a Centennial Project.

A museum is situated at the back of Mr. Dale's store. He started his collection in 1945 and has bought most of his antiques. Some of the items are 200 - 250 years old.

## **7. LIVING CONDITIONS**

Onoway is the centre of a prosperous mixed farming area, the land relatively level but more rolling to the north. Business streets are paved and residential streets and avenues are oil treated for dust control. Many new homes have been built since 1962, when sewer and water were installed by the village.

## **8. ADMINISTRATION**

The Village is governed by a three-man council, elected for a three-year term. Each year, the council appoints a mayor. The village office is open five days a week, but is closed Sundays and Mondays.

## 9. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The R.C.M.P. with headquarters in Stony Plain, police the village.

## 10. REGULATIONS

The village is a member of "Edmonton and District Planning Committee". Zoning By-Laws are in effect. Regulations are in effect governing all construction. All service installations must conform with their respective regulations.

## 11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief, deputy chief and ten volunteer firemen.

### Equipment

- 1 - 1951-450 gpm pumper with 500 gal. tank, 250 lbs. pressure.
- 1 - 1959-120 gpm pumper with 1400 gal. capacity, 175 lbs. pressure.
- 2 - Dry chemical fire extinguishers.
- 1 - Stand pipe with a capacity of 48,000 gallons.
- 1 - 3 h.p. siren, 900 feet 2½-inch hose, 450 feet 1½-inch hose, and a full line of fire fighting equipment.
- 8 - hydrants.
- Emergency fire reporting system (four phones).

### Water Supply

Adequate water is obtained from wells. There is a stand pipe with a capacity of 48,000 gallons.



The Onoway post office is a modern building.



## 12. TAX STRUCTURE

	1971 Assessment
Land, 65% of value	\$113,260
Improvements, 60% of fair value	533,870
Power	13,270
Gas Line	8,180
Total Assessment	<hr/> \$668,580

## 1971 Mill Rate

Municipal	School	Health Unit & Nursing Home	Recreation	Total
28	32.7	3.3	1	65

## 13. AREAS

Total area of Village	- 319.47 acres
Streets, roads and lanes	- 30.86 acres
Parks and playgrounds	- .76 acres

## Miles of Streets, Roads and Lanes

Asphalt	Gravel	Total
1.	3.5	4.5

There are approximately 2 miles of cement sidewalks.

## 14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Storm sewers	- nil
Sanitary sewers	- 2.51
Water mains	- 2.007

## 15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied to the village under franchise by Calgary Power Ltd., who maintain an office with a four-man staff.

### Residential Service - Rate Code 1-110

Available only for lighting, cooking, domestic power and general household use in private houses and individual apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

For the first 20 KWH (or less) per month	- \$2.60 gross min.
Subject to a ten day prompt payment discount	- 2.30 net min.
For the next 280 KWH used per month	- 1½c net per KWH
For all over 300 KWH used per month	- 1½c net per KWH

The above rate applies where the consumer's maximum demand does not exceed 10 Kilowatts. A monthly charge of 50c per KW of additional demand may be made.



### **General Service - Rate Code 2-010**

Applicable to commercial establishments and any other premises which do not qualify for the residential service rate.

#### **Demand Charge**

\$1.00 per month per Kilowatt (or fraction thereof) of demand.

#### **Energy Charge**

The first 40 KWH per KW of Demand	- 5c per KWH
The next 100 KWH per KW of Demand (but not over 1000 KWH per month)	- 3c per KWH
All additional energy used per month	- 1½c per KWH

#### **Minimum Charge**

\$2.30 net per month; or Demand charge if greater.

"Demand" means the maximum 30 minute rate of power delivery expressed in kilowatts, during the billing period, but not less than 75% of the maximum demand occurring in the preceding 12 months and in no case less than 1 KW. Unless a Demand Meter is installed the company may establish the demand by test, or by an estimate of the customer's connected load.

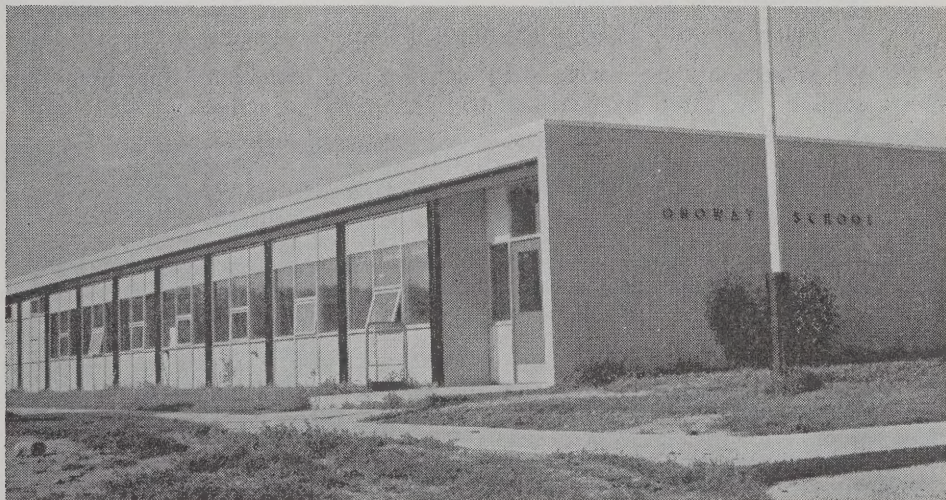
The above are net rates applicable on accounts paid within 10 days of the date rendered. The net bill will be increased by 5%, but not less than 30c per month after the discount date.

## **16. WATER**

Water is obtained from village wells and nearly all homes are serviced.

#### **Residential Service**

Water is \$4.25 for the first 4250 gallons.  
.10 for each additional 100 gallons.



Modern and attractive, the Onoway school serves town and district students.



### **Commercial Rate**

\$5.00 for the first 3000 gallons.

\$1.00 for each additional 1000 gallons.

### **17. SEWER**

Sewer outlet is the lagoon type. Service is available to almost all homes and businesses.

#### **Rate**

\$2.75 per month.

### **18. NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is supplied to the village under franchise by the Northwestern Utilities Ltd.

#### **Rates:**

General Rate - Available to all customers:

First 20 therms or less used per month - \$3.00.

All additional therms per month 4.2c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$3.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per therm shall be increased by 0.2c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

#### **Rate No. 2 - Optional**

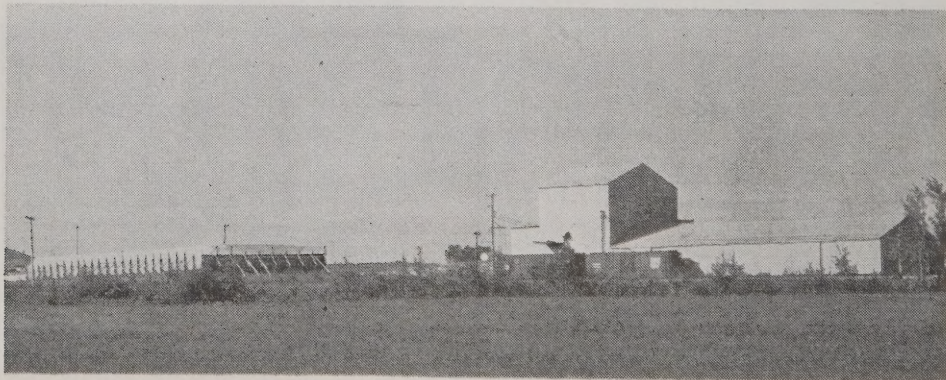
Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 11,900 therms.

Fixed charge \$20.00 per month.

All therms 2.4c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge \$20.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per therm shall be increased by 0.2c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.



One of the economic supports of the community is the Baried Bentonite plant.



This rate is available only on annual contract, which shall continue from year to year thereafter until either party shall give to the other party at least 30 days prior to the expiration of any such year, a written notice of desire to terminate same, whereupon at the expiration of such year, it shall cease and terminate.

#### **19. L.P. GAS**

Heat value 2,530 b.t.u. per cubic foot at 60 degrees F.

100 lb. cylinders - \$5.00 per 100 lbs.

Bulk - 15c per gallon.

Storage capacity - 1,000 gallons.

#### **20. HEATING FUEL**

Winter grade - 19.2c per gallon.

Summer grade - 20.2c per gallon.

Storage capacity - 30,000 gallons.

#### **21. COAL**

Although natural gas and electricity are used exclusively for heating in the village, the people of the surrounding area use some coal, which is easily obtained nearby, usually with their own trucks.

#### **22. NATURAL RESOURCES**

Wheat and coarse grains, forage and seed crops, livestock, poultry and dairy products, honey, oil and gas. There are huge deposits of commercial sand and gravel a few miles south, as well as deposits of commercial clay to the north, used in manufacturing bentonite.

#### **23. INDUSTRY**

Bentonite plant (making drillers' mud).

Slaughter house and meat curing plant.

#### **24. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES**

Federal - Post Office.

Provincial - Alberta Government Telephones.

Municipal - Village office housing secretary-treasurer, council chamber and office of Recreation Director, firehall and storage garage for grader and truck.

#### **25. HEALTH SERVICES**

Stony Plain - Lac Ste. Anne Health Unit No. 17 provides the following services: Immunization of school and pre-school children, examination of persons residing in the Health Unit district, pre-natal and post-natal care, inspection of water and food supplies, tuberculin testing, vision testing, audiometric testing. The staff consists of fifteen members. Quarterly reports are prepared.



**26. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES**

Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Barber	1
Ladies' Hair Stylist and Beautician	2
Insurance Consultants	2

**27. TRANSPORTATION**

C.N.R. branch line from Edmonton to Windfall.

Daily truck and bus service.

Daily mail and paper (news) from Edmonton.

**28. NEWSPAPERS**

"The Stony Plain Reporter", goes to every village taxpayer, by special agreement between the village council and the publisher.

"The Edmonton Journal" has daily house-to-house delivery.

**29. COMMUNICATIONS**

Alberta Government Telephones (automatic dialing, underground cable).  
Post office; radio and TV from Edmonton.

**30. FINANCIAL FACILITIES**

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (6 staff members).



Religious needs of the town and district are met in the town's several churches.



**31. HOTELS**

	<b>No. of Rooms</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Licensed</b>
Onoway Hotel	11	\$4.00 to \$5.00	Yes

**32. MOTELS**

Nil

**33. TRAILER COURTS**

Four miles east at Devil's Lake (hook-ups).

County-owned in village (completely serviced).

**34. CHURCHES**

Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Greek Orthodox, United.

**35. LODGES AND SERVICE CLUBS**

Elks, Royal Purple, Canadian Legion, Women's Auxiliary of Canadian Legion, Women's Institute, Masonic Lodge, Sisters of Service.

**36. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Red Cross, Home and School, Women's Church organizations.



The many cream cans before the local creamery testify to one of economic supports of the community.



**37. EDUCATION**

The village schools are a part of the County of Lac Ste. Anne No. 28 school system. Grades 1 to 12 inclusive are taught and optional subjects are offered such as: drama, art, music, business education, home economics, type-writing and shop. There are 14 school buses which transport rural students to this centralized school.

The school population is made up as follows:

	<b>Grade</b>	<b>No. of Pupils</b>
Elementary	1 - 6	430
Junior High	7 - 9	260
Senior High	10 - 12	250

The staff cannot be classified by grades as several are specialists and instruct at all levels. The total staff is 53.

**38. THEATRES AND HALLS**

	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>P.A. System</b>
Community Centre	600	Yes	2	Yes
Legion Hall	100	No	No	No
Masonic Hall	50	No	No	No
3 gymnasiums (in schools)		Yes	Yes	No

**39. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Special classes in ceramics, oil painting, culinary (adults), drama, music, art, taught at the school.

**40. YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, Rangers, Teen Club, C.G.I.T., 4-H Clubs.

**41. SPORTS**

Hockey, curling, baseball, softball, badminton, volleyball, soccer, football, two saddle clubs.

**Sports Facilities**

Three sheets artificial curling ice, sports ground with ball diamond and backstop, outdoor hockey and skating rink. The skating rink house is 20 ft. by 80 ft. It has natural gas heating, flush toilets, dressing rooms, lunch bar. A completely equipped children's playground is provided by the village.

**42. FAIRS**

Annual parade on Farmers' Day, Gymkhana activities throughout the summer.

**43. CO-OPERATIVES**

Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers elevator and feed mill, U.F.A. oil and gasoline outlet.



#### 44. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments	Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments
Bakery .....	1	General Contracting .....	1
Bank .....	1	Hardware .....	1
Barbers .....	1	Hotels .....	1
Bentonite plant .....	1	Implements (farm) ....	1
Blacksmith (ornamental iron) ....	1	Insurance & Real Estate ...	2
Butchers .....	2	Kennels ....	1
Beauty Salons ....	2	Laundry (coin wash) .....	1
Clothing Stores .....	2	Livestock Buyers .....	2
Coffee Shop .....	1	Lumber (all building needs) .....	1
Creamery .....	1	Milk Distributors .....	1
Cabinet Maker .....	1	Native Crafts Mfr. ....	1
Cold Storage Locker .....	3	Oil & Gas Distributors .....	3
Dry Cleaning ....	1	Propane Distributors .....	1
Electrical Appliances .....	1	Plumbing & Heating .....	1
Garage & Service Stations .....	4	Radio & TV Repairs .....	1
General Stores .....	2	Restaurants .....	1
Grain Elevators .....	2	Welding and Machine .....	1
Grocery Stores .....	2		

#### 45. SITES

Industrial and residential property is available at reasonable prices.

#### 46. TRADING AREA

North 12 miles; west 10 miles; south 10 miles; east 6 miles.

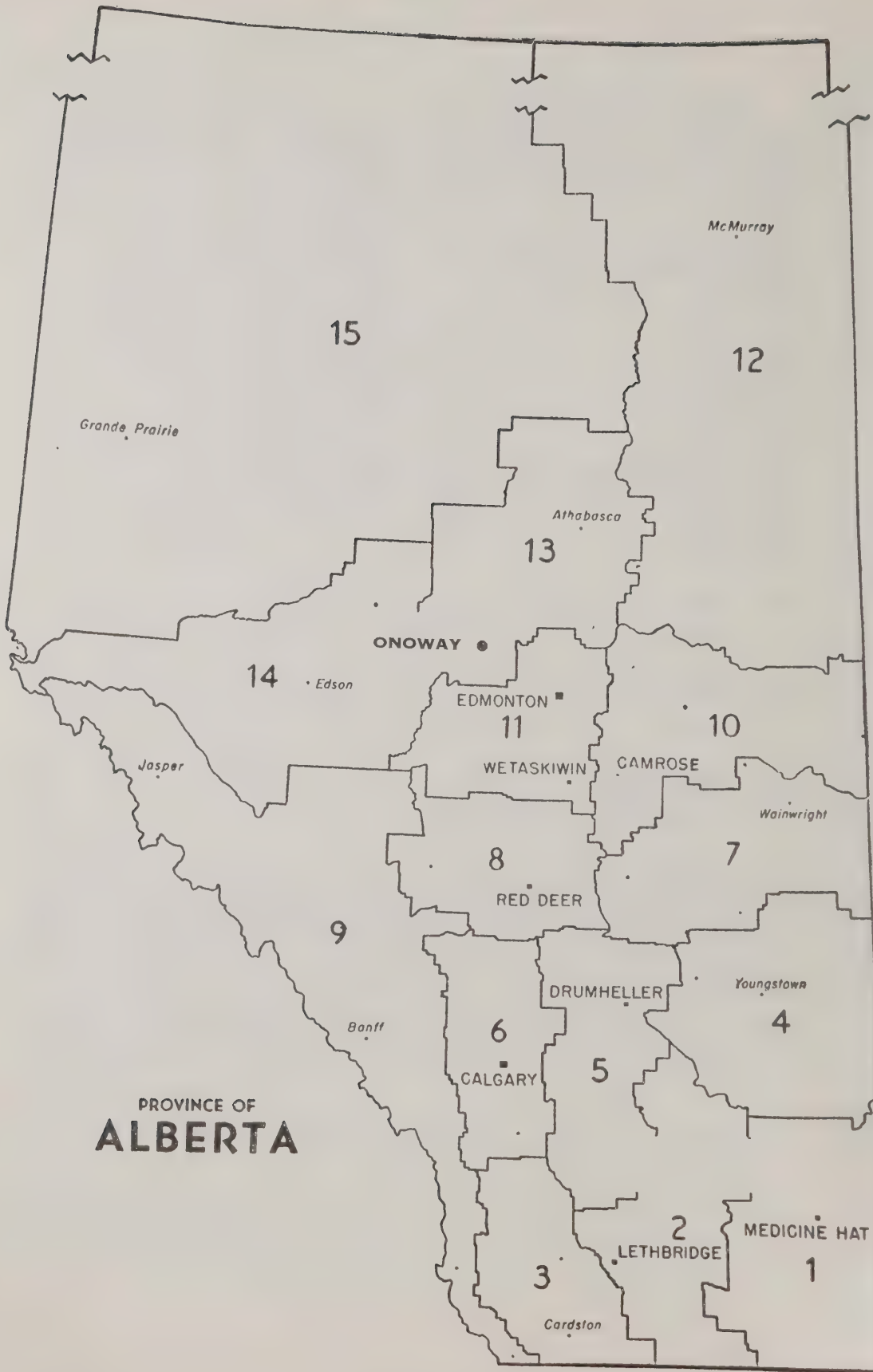
#### 47. POPULATION

Village population, 1969 census - 473.

#### 48. RECREATION

Onoway is surrounded by a number of lakes well known as holiday resorts and for fishing. Lac Ste. Anne, Lake Isle, Devil's Lake, Sandy Lake, Nakamun Lake and Lac La Nonne are all within a short driving distance from the village.





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